



315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association
315th Airlift Wing Excellence over the Years
Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina

21 December 2016 #1

Visit our website at: <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

Merry Christmas

The Heritage Trust Sponsored Christmas Social and Luncheon was held at the Charleston Club on 2 December 2016. We enjoyed an attendance of about 80, which was better than we had anticipated. The interaction was great, and we had Santa Claus! The Christmas spirit was definitely in the air!

We have the Heritage Trust Sponsored Luncheon quarterly throughout the year, but the one in December is when we enjoy the great holiday season. We had fun with several free drawings, and one was where you pitched in your one dollar bill for the jack pot, called the 2 for one drawing held by Roy Griffin. This is our favorite, and we have fun with this. It's our cut up time! Many of us brought gifts and gift cards for the children of our 315th Airlift Wing that are in need. We had a great turn out with many participating in this very worthy cause. We had several interesting announcements and some very good comments. I had put together a picture display board with photos depicting the history of the 315th AW Alumni Association with a lot of detail as part of my role as our historian. We were celebrating the 22nd Anniversary of the Alumni that we had missed back in the summer because of the hurricane.

We were honored to have as our speaker, Major General James D. Bankers, our former 315th Wing Commander and Commander of the 22nd Air Force. General Bankers established the 315th Alumni Association 22 years ago on 9 July 1994. We found it most interesting to hear

General Bankers explain in detail exactly how he began to get us organized on that very first day. During that first meeting a set of By-Laws were set up under the direction of Public Affairs, Major Chris King and the Jag Officer Lt Colonel Andy Savage. Documentation was filed with the state of South Carolina IRS as a non-profit organization. Our organization began with 55 charter members. One of those charter members was SMS Ray Ardis. He published the newsletter and he was our secretary. Ray is currently the Vice President of the Alumni.

Colonel Gregory S. Gilmour, 315th Airlift Wing Commander honored

Colonel Gilmour was honored at our last quarterly luncheon for his support of the 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association. The award was presented by 315th AW Alumni President CMS Dick Fuller and Steve E. Wichmann, Executive Vice President of Heritage Trust. James H (Jim) McDaniel, President/CEO of Heritage Trust also spoke at this presentation.

Charleston VA broke ground for the first Fisher House 18 November 2016

The Charleston Fisher House is projected to be complete by early 2018 and will join the ranks of 31 other VA Fisher Houses in the U. S in service to Veterans, military members and their families.

See more at: [http://www.charleston.va.gov/features/Charleston Fisher House](http://www.charleston.va.gov/features/Charleston%20Fisher%20House)

The 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association recently donated \$500.

SMS Ray Ardis, Alumni Vice President

Final Fly-bye

MSgt John Wilson, former First Sergeant 31st AES passed according to his loving wife, Magdalene Wilson. Martin McKenzie of the 31st said "loosing such a quiet, wise and gentle man isn't something any of us wanted for Christmas, but in his case he's now home." Services will be held 23 Dec 2016 at 11:00 hours, at Kingston Lake Education & Business Center, 3410 Church Street, SC 29569. Service to the family being provided by McKeiver Funeral Home in Conway, SC, (843) 248-2706. Martin McKenzie, 31 /315 AES

The Alumni Association has had a great year. We missed the golf tournament and special celebration dinner back in the summer because of Hurricane Matthew. It was both convenient and economical and well planned. We will be planning this again for the early spring of 2017.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas followed by a happy and prosperous New Year. Best wishes for 2017.

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